

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, announced that the furloughs of civilian DOD employees will be 11 days for the balance of this fiscal year. This decision, driven by sequestration, is damaging and degrading the military readiness of our country. These are individuals who provide critical services for the men and women in uniform who serve all across America and all across the world.

Sequestration is acting like a slow-acting poison, which is now affecting the economy. Moody's Investor Services announced last week that it will take a full point off of GDP growth this year and will result in, over time, the loss of 700,000 jobs.

It is time for this institution to focus on this self-inflicted damage that Congress caused by not turning off sequester as previous Congresses back in the eighties and nineties did when sequestration was in effect.

We should stop wasting our time on repeal debates for health care—37 times as of last week—and focus on what's really important in the immediate future. It's to turn off sequester. It is time for the leadership of this House to stop wasting our time and get focused on the issue that matters the most to the American people.

GANG OF 8 BILL PUTS SAFETY OF CITIZENS AT RISK

(Mr. BROOKS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Senate amnesty bill gives amnesty to illegal aliens regardless of public safety and the danger to American citizens. For example, the Department of Homeland Security must waive misdemeanor criminal convictions when determining amnesty eligibility. That means crimes like assault, vehicular homicide, possession of drug manufacturing equipment, DUI, and sex offenses. Even gangsters get amnesty.

Chris Crane, President of the National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council, says:

The idea that we're going to give known gang members the opportunity to renounce their affiliation—and believe them—and then give them legal status in our country is outrageous.

Letting illegal alien criminals stay in America is outrageous, yet amnesty for criminals is exactly what the President and Senate Gang of 8 advocate.

Mr. Speaker, this amnesty bill is so bad it should be renamed the "Loopholes for Criminals Act."

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

(Mr. BRIDENSTINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. I rise today as an Eagle Scout and one who has a stake in the future of our scouting programs.

Some of us in America still believe in the concept of sexual morality, that sex is intended for one man and one woman within the institution of marriage. Organizations that hold this philosophy and promote it among our youth should be commended—or at least, you would think, tolerated.

Unfortunately, the intolerant left bullies and browbeats private organizations like the Boy Scouts into accepting their philosophy. Notice, they didn't start their own organization; they went after the Boy Scouts of America.

The left's agenda is not about tolerance and it's not about diversity of thought. It's about promoting a world view of relativism, where there is no right and wrong, then using the full force of the government to silence opposition and reshape organizations like the Boy Scouts into instruments for social change.

To my friends on the left, this is not tolerance.

But here's the good news about true tolerance: the most tolerant One of all has the ability to redeem us all.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CODY TOWSE

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor Private First Class Cody Towse, whose life was lost in Afghanistan. America lost one of its best and Utah lost one of our best.

This is a young soldier who had dedicated his life to helping save others. At the age of 18, he went to become an EMT and then a firefighter, and later joined the Army. He had recently won the Army Combat Medic Ribbon for saving another life under fire. As a bomb went off near Kandahar, he went to rush to the person who was injured, when a second bomb went off that took his life.

Today, I stand to honor him and all the men and women who serve and sacrifice for this country, for the United States of America. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

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THE EPA CONTINUES ITS WAR ON ASTHMATICS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, people going to the Environmental Protection

Agency's Web site find that May is National Asthma Month. Many people might be surprised to know that starting January 1, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency has prevented the sale of the only over-the-counter asthma inhaler upon which millions of Americans have relied for emergency asthma treatment.

What is most alarming is that this inhaler was taken off the market not because it was unsafe or ineffective for treating asthma—it had been around for 50 years safely and effectively treating acute asthma attacks—but the Environmental Protection Agency claimed that the miniscule amount of chlorofluorocarbon contained was creating a hole in the ozone. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that the Nation's asthmatics are not causing a hole in the ozone layer.

When these inhalers were taken off-line, we were told that the Food and Drug Administration would quickly approve a substitute inhaler; but here we are months and months and months later with no inhaler in sight.

What has been the response of the EPA? They've been dismissive of Congress' concerns.

I urge people to contact their Member of Congress to bring back these inhalers that have served so many people so well for so long.

SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL HELPS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, NOT AMERICANS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it's hard to believe that the immigration debate is taking place in the United States of America.

Those who favor the Senate immigration bill talk a lot about helping foreign workers and undocumented immigrants, but you never hear them talk about helping American workers and American taxpayers. They can't, because the immigration bill will cost many American workers their jobs or decrease their wages. That's what happens when you give work permits to 10 million illegal immigrants.

As for the cost of additional government services, the American taxpayer picks up that bill—about \$43 billion every year.

The air is coming out of the Senate bill fast. It doesn't secure the border, and it hurts American workers and taxpayers.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: